

THE
SPECTACULAR
SPIDERMAN®

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP



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PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN®

**A CHAMPION
GONE MAD!**

NEITHER SPIDEY NOR THE AVENGING ANGEL
CAN STEM THE ICEMAN'S FURY!

**COLD RAGE,
SWIFT DOOM!**



While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had **GAINED** the arachnid's powers...and had, in effect, become a human spider...

Stan Lee
PRESENTS: **THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!**

SWELL! JUST SWELL! PETER PARKER ARRIVES IN L.A. TO PHOTOGRAPH THE BREAK-UP OF THE CHAMPIONS-- TOO LATE, NATCH--

--BUT JUST IN TIME TO FIND THE ANGEL BEING BLACKMAILED BY A WHEELCHAIR-BOUND CUCKOO NAMED STUART CLARKE WHOSE MUSCLE IS AN ARMORED BRUISER CALLED RAMPAGE!

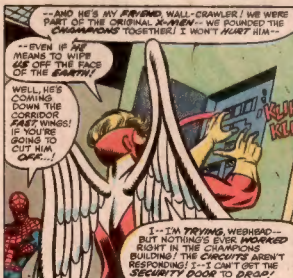
WELL, I FIXED THAT PRETTY QUICK, WITH A LATE-INNING ASSIST FROM THE ANGEL--WE ZAPPED CLARKE AND DISABLED THE RAMPAGE ARMOR-- BUT RAMPAGE TURNED OUT TO BE A HYPNOTIZED BOBBY DRAKE, THE ICEMAN-- AND HE'S STILL TRYING TO KILL US!

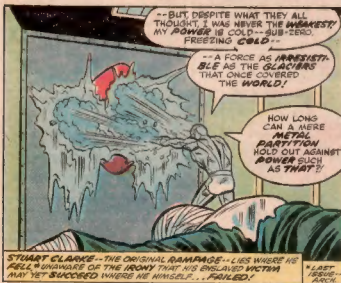
MY ORDERS ARE TO KILL YOU IF I HAVE TO DESTROY THE CHAMPIONS BUILDING TO DO IT!

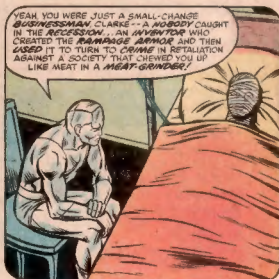
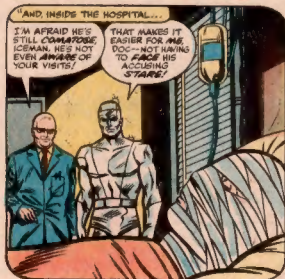
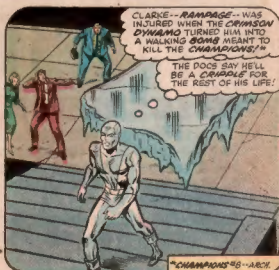
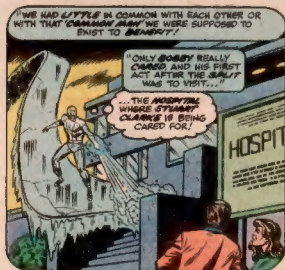
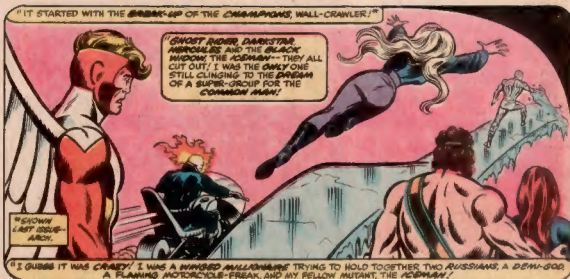
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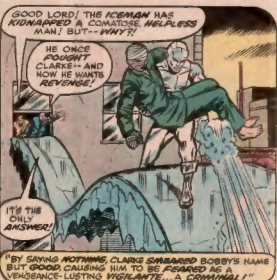
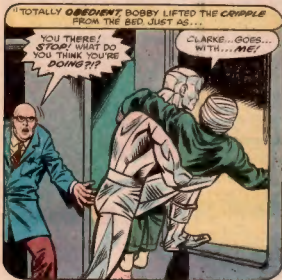
MY FRIEND, MY FOE!

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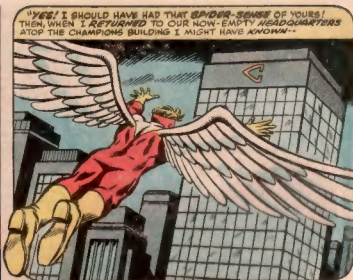






THE POLICE CALLED--AS MUCH AS ACCUSED ME OF COMPLICITY, THEN INSISTED THAT I BE MY BROTHER'S KEEPER AND FIND BOBBY!

BUT HE AND CLARKE FOUND YOU INSTEAD, HUH?

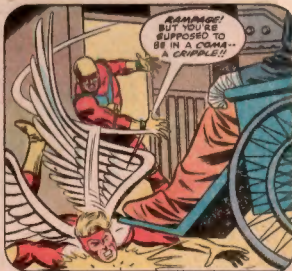


"YES! I SHOULD HAVE HAD THAT SPIDER-SENSE OF YOURS! THEN, WHEN I RETURNED TO OUR NOW-EMPTY HEADQUARTERS ATOP THE CHAMPIONS BUILDING I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN--

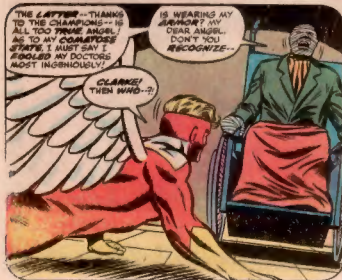


--THAT I WAS FLYING INTO A TRAP!!

GU-UNK!



RAMAGE! BUT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE IN A COMA-- A CRIPPLE!!



THE LATTER--THANKS TO THE CHAMPIONS--IS ALL TOO TRUE. ANGEL, AS TO MY COMATOSE STATE, I MUST SAY I REGLED MY DOCTORS MOST INGENUOUSLY!

IS WEARING MY ARMOR? MY DEAR ANGEL, DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE--

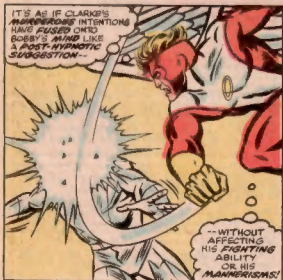
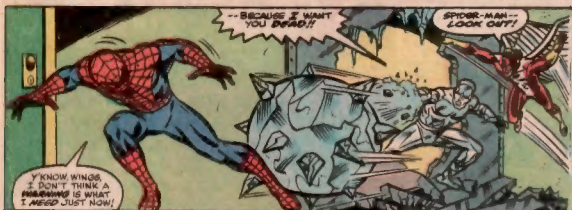
CLARKE! THEN WHO--?

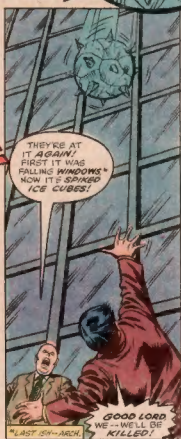
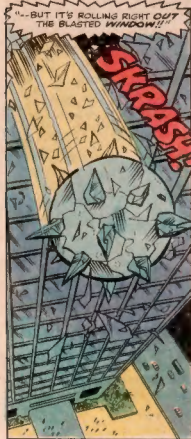
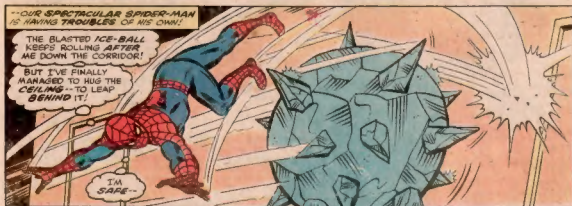


--THE MINDLESS, HATE-FILLED COUNTERPART OF YOUR FORMER TEAMMATE... THE ICEMAN?!

"BOBBY, IN THE RAMAGE ARMOR, WAS THE KEY TO CLARKE'S REVENGE!"

"I COULDN'T FIGHT HIM WITHOUT TAKING THE RISK OF KILLING HIM! CLARKE HAD US BOTH IN HIS POWER!"

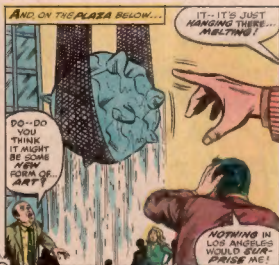






IN A WORD...
YES!

B-BUT...
I CAUGHT IT
BEFORE IT
KILLED
ANYONE!



AND, ON THE PLAZA BELOW...

IT-- IT'S JUST
HANGING THERE...
MELTING!

DO--DO
YOU
THINK
IT MIGHT
BE SOME
NEW FORM OF...
ART?

NOTHING IN
LOS ANGELES
WOULD SUR-
PRISE ME!



MEANWHILE, IN THE CHAMPIONS BUILDING...

DRAKE--
YOU'RE
KILLING
HIM!

THAT'S
THE IDEA,
ISN'T IT?



IT MAY HAVE
BEEN CLARKE'S
IDEA, FROSTY--
BUT IT'S NOT
YOURS! STILL, IF
YOU'RE TOO WISSED-
OUT TO REALIZE
THAT--!

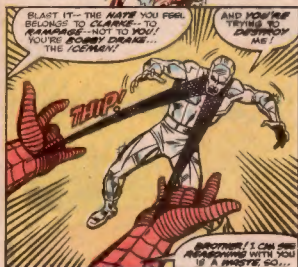
SORRY PAL--
BUT YOU KNOW
NOT WHAT YOU DO!

WTHAH!



NOW, YOU WALKING
SNO--COME-- WILL
YOU AT LEAST
TRY TO
REMEMBER?

ALL I REMEMBER
IS THAT YOU'RE
MY ENEMY! I
HATE YOU...AND
I'M GOING TO
KILL YOU.

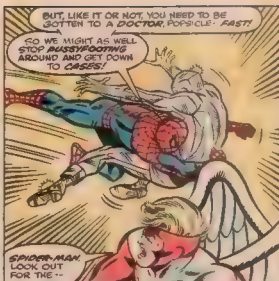


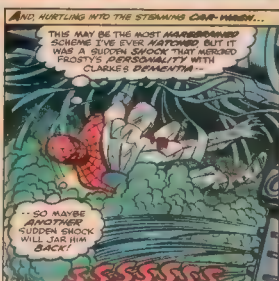
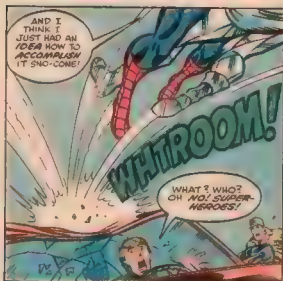
BLAST IT-- THE HATE YOU FEEL
BELONGS TO CLARKE-- TO
RAMAGE--NOT TO YOU!!
YOU'RE SORRY DRAKE...
THE ICEMAN!

AND YOU'RE
TRYING TO
DESTROY
ME!

THP!

BROTHER! I CAN SEE
REASONING WITH YOU
IS A WASTE, SO...





SPIDER-MAIL

96 MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 375 MADISON AVE. N.Y.C. 10017

This issue, the rage over RAZORBACK continues, pro and con! Marvel's CB-super-hero has elicited more musings and misgivings than any newly-introduced character since the Silver Surfer! But, we'll let your letters speak for themselves:

Dear Archie, Bill and Sel,

PPTSS #14 was a well-paced issue in a well-paced storyline. It's been awhile since there's been a multi-part Spidey story, and it's nice to see one again. But there's more to it than that. This started out as what appeared to be an average two-part story. . . but, with the addition of Razorback (and leave us not forget Big Pig. . . great stuff, there) and the Hate-Monger, it got bigger until, with this issue, it has taken on truly large proportions. It's chilling, to be reminded of certain "religious" groups by the Legion of Light, and, while they may not have the Man Beast backing them up. . . well, strike one more blow for Mighty Marvel realism.

A word on some aspects of the story which just sort of snuck up on us: like last issue, the presence of Razorback was a definite plus. He's one of the best, most likeable characters to come along in a long while. In fact, I'm tempted to ask that he be featured regularly somewhere. (Somewhere he'll be written by Bill or Archie, natch!) Also, it was good to see Flash using his head for a change, if not as successfully as he might have hoped. After all, it was his presence that saved Razorback's life. And, as always, Sel's art was fantastic. As someone once said, the man is the most consistently good penciler in comics. . . and, besides John Romita, (whose time is taken up with the wonderful SPIDER-MAN newspaper strip), he is John and Mike's heavier inking this issue was beautiful, giving added life to the map.

PMM Matt Kaufman
303 W Pennsylvania
Urbana, IL 61801

Bill,

Re: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #14, RAZORBACK

My first reaction was a little less than kind, Bill, since I've come to respect your writing talents. To put it bluntly, the idea of a CB-super-hero who runs around wearing a pig's head is just plain silly!

The character is conceptually very weak, since he has no special powers of his own besides a stupid gimmick and the strength of your average, bar busting redneck.

All that was my first reaction. Then I considered the wise words of Steve Gerber that all we comic book readers take our funny books too seriously. Your creation seems to be following a trend in many Marvel books to create a second string of costumed heroes who have no books of their own. So far the list includes Crime Buster (Novel), Paladin (Dordevil), Lunatik (Defenders), Jask of Hearts (Iron Men), Thundra and Tigra (FF), and your own White Tiger who seems to be slated as a guest-star in this mag, at least occasionally. Also, the idea of the amateur hero begins to warm on me, since all your previous super-heroes are professionals to one degree or another, with the original crowd like the Avengers or the FF topping the list.⁹

And then the realization that what you've done is to create a super-hero in the style of the old Timely books, where everybody, no matter how weak the motivations, would jump into a silly-looking costume and, with an even sillier power, decide to fight against the forces of evil!

In other, and much clearer words, your Razorback is a complete trip! And, for those of Marveldom who might complain about the large number of super-types now in existence, they should check any issue of MARVEL MYSTERY COMICS during the 40's, where six or seven new heroes would appear with every issue, and most would never be seen again! I do hope Razorback was envisioned as an open tribute to this period, because you've completely captured the innocence of those days when anybody could become a costumed hero.

Please try to convince your editors for a RAZORBACK try-out in the pages of MARVEL PREMIERE. It would be a definite kick to see the reaction of the populace to super beings somewhere other than New York or L.A. Those cities have become quite jaded concerning such things, and it would be nice for a relieved public to actually *thank* a super hero for saving their worthless lives instead of complaining about fallen plaster, wouldn't it?

Anyway, thank you for arousing some interest in a jaded world, and don't forget to introduce Razorback's partners soon . . . the incredible C.B. BRIGADE.

Steven Alan Bannart
842 Hunt Street
Akron, OH 44306

Just may do that, Steven, if Archie approves. And that leads us to one comment: Archie Goodwin; repeat, Affable, Amiable, Archival Archie Goodwin; ye Editor-in-Chief him self. . . created Razorback—not Bill Mantlo. All Bill did was put the name in Buford Hollis's mouth and flesh out his character somewhat. Our CB-super-hero was, start to finish, a product of the fertile imagination of a man who's done more to inspire the phrase "Marvel Masterpieces" than anyone short of Stan (the Man) or Roy (the Boy) themselves! Kudos, Arch—but the pens are yours, too, fella.

Dear Bill, Arch and whoever,

I suffered through Razorback last ish and kept mum. But two issues in a row is enough!

A CB-sputting trucker? Oh, crissal! A big ox who dresses himself up as a giant boar? Oh, brother!

There is a difference between characterization and caricature! There is a difference between giving a character an accent, and making that accent so thick, so overdone, that it becomes his entire personality! Reb Ralston overdid *his* accent, granted. So do Union Jack and Spitzfire. But none of the aforementioned came close to Razorback's "big 10-4 to that!" and "Affirmative, good buddy!" The man is absolutely unable to take a breath without saying something in CB-ese!

Real truckers don't talk like that! They sometimes go a little overboard on the CB, if only for the fun of mystifying the rubes, but, face to face, at any truck stop, you hear them talking like human beings, not "Rubber Quakes." AARRGHHH! No matter how tightly I shut my eyes, I can't erase the image of a super-hero who dresses like a giant boar, and who drives a semi-rig equivalent of the Bat Mobile, called Big Pig!

There was a time—you may remember—that Marvel was aiming at—if not a specific age group—at least at a specific intellectual level! When you didn't try to deliberately insult our intelligence! When fantasy was presented with believable characterizations!

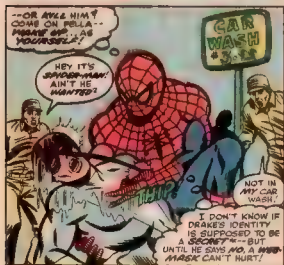
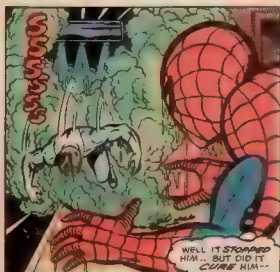
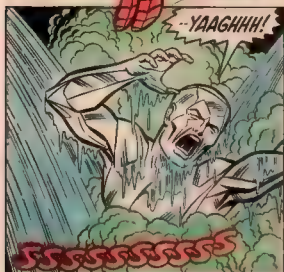
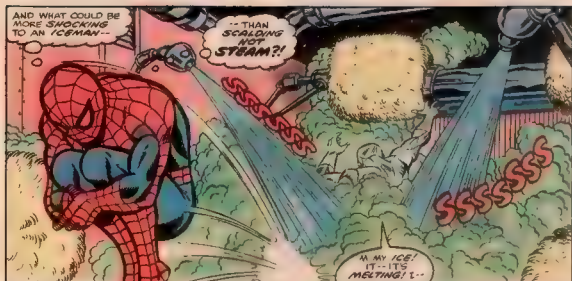
GET RID OF RAZORBACK!

As you may have guessed, I'm not fond on him,

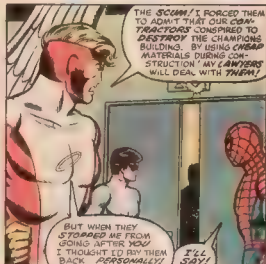
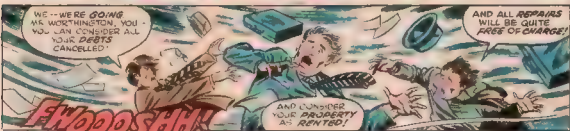
Ar Schroeder III
2207 Old Hickory Blvd
Nashville, TN 37215

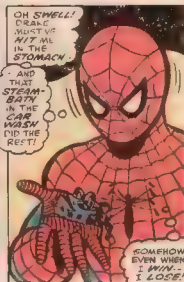
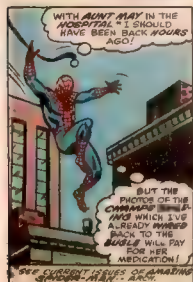
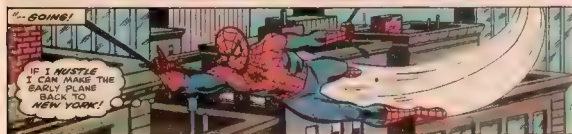
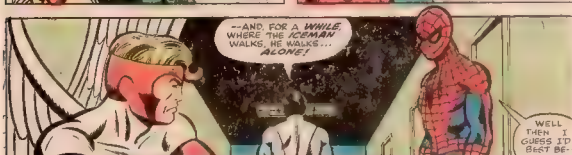
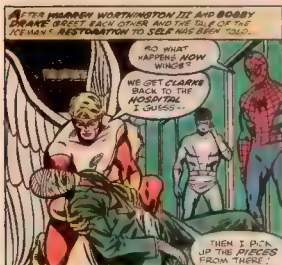
Yeah, but you haven't said you don't like him, Al! (No, don't throw that, fella! OUCH!)

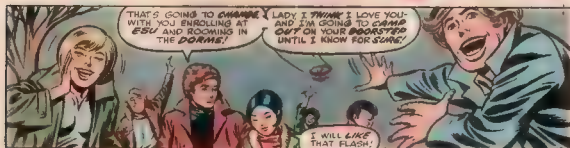
See ya in thirty, comrades!



*SPIDEY'S KNOWN ICEMAN'S IDENTITY SINCE MARVEL TEAM-UP #4--ARCHIVE









MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS

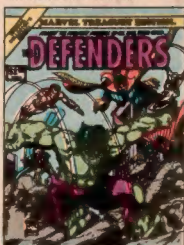
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STAN'S SOAPBOX

Well, there I was a few weeks ago, lecturing at Virginia Polytech U. — or Va Tech as the cognovoxed call it. Nicest gang of guys and gals on that campus you'd ever wanna see. After the heavy stuff ended, we stood around 'jaunty' for a while, and that's when it happened! A young prof walked up and asked me why I've changed the ol' Soapbox. I didn't know what he meant. "I never changed my column," I told him. "I've always used it to keep in touch with my bosses—the mighty minions of Marveldom." "Untrue!" said he! "The Soapbox used to be a place where you really loved with us, where we'd discuss the philosophy of comics, movies, or whatever grabbed us. It was a place to get together, let our hair down, and get to know each other better. But now, it's like a tv commercial—you're always selling something!" He shook his head and sighed. "I miss the old-time Soapbox. But I guess they'll never come back." Wow! After he left, I really plopped down and thought about what he'd said. And, y'know something? He was dead right! I realized I was hawkfaring our books, tv shows, and assorted products and paraphernalia right here in my column. But, where is it written that a fella can't see the light? I promised myself that, from now on, the Soapbox'll be a place where we can yak about anything that comes to mind, with emphasis on comical I'll leave the hard-sell to the ad pages, where it belongs. So, let me now abjectly apologize to one and all for any excess of exuberance that may have made me pitch too many wares. Starting next ish, we're just gonna swap stories, gossip, and points of view—and you won't even need your wallet! (Even if it means less bread for us, at least we'll starve with class!)

Excelsior!

declared Favorite Dramatic Comics Magazine. CHRIS CLAREMONT was voted Favorite British Comics Writer (for CAPT. BRITAIN, we assume), and one of his books, X-MEN, was named Best Dramatic Comic. We'd like to thank all our friends in Great Britain for these honors and assure them that, despite slightly sweltered heads, we'll strive to produce even better work in the future! Let's also tip our hats to Richard Burton and Michael Conroy, the two stalwarts who labored long and hard organizing and running the awards (which are called Eagle Awards, by the way, after a famous British weekly comic). Well done, fellas. We're looking forward to seeing how the awards for '77 come out.



ITEM! February may be a short month, but we've managed to cram a fair number of extra goodies into it just to help you through that mid-winter gloom. For starters, there's the SPIDER-MAN POCKET BOOK #2 which features issues 7 through 13 of the amazing one's adventures, all in full color, complete and unabridged. With the price of back issues these days, these Pocket Book paperbacks have to be one of the biggest bargains around and a nifty way to have your own bound library of Marvel's greatest hits. They're at your favorite bookstore now. Grab 'em before they become Collector's Items too! Also on tap this month is our latest MARVEL TREASURY EDITION, spotlighting everybody's favorite non-team, the dynamic DEFENDERS in three of their classic action sagas, including their very first, and displaying the art and writing talents of such luminaries as ROY THOMAS, ROSS ANDRU, BILL EVERETT, SAL BUSCEMA, LEN WEIN, STEVE ENGLEHART, KLAUS JANSON, and DAVID ANTHONY KRAFT. Seek it out, you won't be sorry. Last, but not necessarily least, we have CRAZY Magazine's "Annual Idiot Issue," which won't make spring come any faster but may keep you too busy chuckling to notice the wait.

ITEM! Let's have a hearty "welcome aboard," for Dazzling DICKIE MCKENZIE, recently arrived from the hills of Kentucky to seek fame, fortune, and spelling errors in service of our editorial department. Glad to have you with us, Ms. McKenzie. We can always use help with our proofreading.

ITEM! You may have heard that New York has gone sort of Dracula-happy. There are currently two hit stage plays about the incredible Count thriving simultaneously. What you may not know is that one of them, "The Passion of Dracula," is the work of Marvel contributor, BOB HALL. Bob's probably familiar to you as penciler of THE CHAMPIONS, SUPER-VILLAIN TEAM-UP, and several other apes including an up-coming MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE which stars beautiful Ben Grimm with Hercules, but for the play, Mr. Hall not only shares co-credit for the set designs, he co-wrote the production, and, in addition, did the art for the ads. Talk about your Renaissance men! Everyone that's seen the play tells us it makes for a really fun evening of theater, so if you're in the area, you might want to check it out. Tell 'em Doc Doom sent you.

ITEM! We couldn't mention Dracula without laying a few words on you about a certain color comic called TOMB OF DRACULA. Just when we think writer/editor MARV WOLFGANG and artist GENE (The Dean) COLAN have worked every possible variation on the subject of vampires and their kith and kin, those guys pull another surprise out of their bag of tricks. Lastly, aided and abetted by ace embellisher TOM PALMER, they've come up with one of the wildest concepts yet: The Lord of the Vampires has lost his vampiric powers! He's suddenly human and vulnerable, but all his many enemies are still as hard on his heels with stakes in hand as ever. We don't know how Marv, Gene, and Tom are going to wrap this whole thing up, but we sure don't intend to miss an issue until we find out! As a team, these three guys have been putting the Count through his paces since 1973; it seems like they're only getting better. If you believe you've seen everything in a weird book, catch their latest act... and be surprised.

COMING SOON!



ITEM! If there are some puffed-out chests and beaming faces around the Bullpen of late, it's due to recent news from the comics line of Great Britain about the results of their first annual, nationally-organized awards poll for the best material of 1976. To our pardonable pleasure and pride, a number of mighty Marvel efforts were singled out for top honors. HOWARD THE DUCK won as Favorite New Comic, Favorite Humor Comic, and netted honors for STEVE GERBER and JOHN BUSCEMA as writer and artist of the Favorite Single Comic Book Story. COMAN THE BARBARIAN fared almost equally well. He was voted Favorite Comic Book Character, and SAVAGE SWORD OF COMAN was

"THOR® MEETS A GLUTTON FOR GOLD"

GOLDEN ASGARD HAS BEEN LESS GOLDEN OF LATE DUE TO MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCES OF MUCH OF ITS GOLD.

TRULY AM I NAMED GUDRUN THE GOLDEN! I WILL GATHER UNTO MYSELF ALL THAT IS GOLD SO IT MAY REFLECT BACK MINE GLORY.



MIGHTY THOR, CANST THOU NOT STEM THIS MYSTERIOUS FLOW OF ASGARD'S GOLD?

NAY RATHER THIS EVIL PLOT CALLS FOR BRAINS INSTEAD OF BRAWN.



GATHERED HERE ARE ALL THE GOLDEN HOSTESS® TWINKIES SNACK CAKES IN ASGARD.

TRULY NO LOVER OF GOLD COULD RESIST CAPTURING SUCH A TREASURE TROVE OF RICH, GOLDEN SPONGE CAKES.



I COME FOR GOLDEN BARS OF METAL AND FIND GOLDEN BARS OF RICH, MOIST CAKE. THIS IS INDEED A TREASURE.



THY TASTE FOR GOLD HAS ENTRAPPED THEE!!!!!!

I CONFESS THE DELICIOUS GOLDEN CAKE OF HOSTESS TWINKIES SNACK CAKES PLEASES ME MORE THAN THE GOLD OF METAL.

THE CREAMED FILLING, TOO, IS WORTHY OF THE GODS.



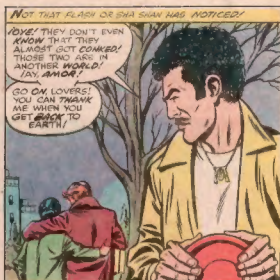
ONCE AGAIN, ASGARD'S GOLD IS FOR OUR GODS.

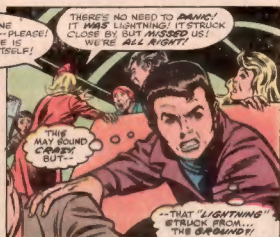
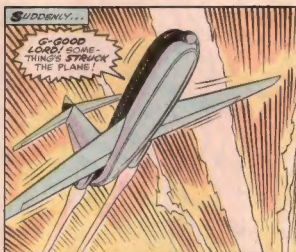
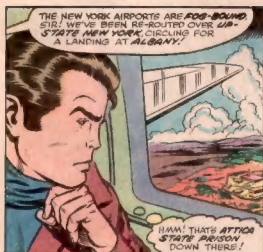
TRULY 'TIS BETTER TO ENJOY THE GOLDEN GOODNESS OF HOSTESS TWINKIES SNACK CAKES THAN STORE UP GOLD THAT DOES NAUGHT BUT GATHER DUST.



YOU GET A BIG DELIGHT IN EVERY BITE OF HOSTESS TWINKIES SNACK CAKES

® HOSTESS AND TWINKIES ARE REGISTERED TRADEMARKS OF ITT CONTINENTAL BAKING COMPANY.





NEXT ISSUE: A MYSTERY AND SOME MERRY MARVEL NASTIES YOU'LL LOVE TO HATE!

ANYONE REMEMBER The ENFORCERS?